

Lady Death



Hughes
96
JENSEN
98/002

THERE'S A STARK CHILL IN THE AIR, BUT LADY DEATH DOESN'T FEEL IT, FOR SHE IS COLDER THAN THE FIERCEST WINTER STORM.

WITH EACH STRIDE SHE DRAWS CLOSER TO BATTLE, YET RECENT MEMORIES PLAGUE HER, REPLAYING OVER AND OVER IN AN ENDLESS NIGHTMARE PROCESSION.

AND HER INSURMOUNTABLE ANGER, HER FRENZY GROWS.

THERE'S THE HARSH ODOR OF ASH, OF BURNING FLESH, BUT SHE DOESN'T FEAR IT, FOR NOTIONS OF DEATH AND DYING COMFORT HER.

SHE CAME TO ASGARD, A LONER, A WANDERER. SHE LEARNED SHE HAD FAMILY AMONG THE WARRIOR NORTHMEN, AND FOR ONCE SHE FELT LIKE SHE BELONGED.

BUT THE ONE DEAREST TO HER -- HER HALF SISTER VANDALA -- WAS SLAIN WHILE SHE SLEPT, HER LIFE ENDED BY AN OLD ENEMY WITH A DEADLY, HIDDEN AGENDA.



I'M NUMB.
DON'T FEEL ANY
ONE WAY. FEEL TOO MUCH.
ONE SECOND I SMILE AT THE
NOTION THAT VANDALA OF
ALL PEOPLE TURNED OUT TO
BE FAMILY, AND THE NEXT I
WANT TO BURST INTO TEARS
BECAUSE I LOST HER. IT'S
SO HARD TO CARE, SO
PAINFUL.

EASIER
TO TUCK ALL
MY FEELINGS
AWAY, BURY
THEM.

GIVE
INTO
ANGER.

FASTER,
WOLF! FASTER,
YOU HEAR
ME?!

RR
RR
RA

AS SHE DARES TO
IMAGINE WHAT COULD
HAVE BEEN, SHE EMBRACES
THE FESTERING DARKNESS
IN HER HEART LIKE A
TRUSTED OLD FRIEND
AND READIES FOR WAR!

LAID OUT BEFORE HER
IS A VAST PANORAMA OF
WAR, BUT SHE WELCOMES
IT, BETTER THIS, THAN THE
HOLLOW FEELINGS OF
LOSS THAT GNAW AT HER.

POOR
VANDALA BORE THE
MARK OF THAT WRETCH,
SINESTRA ... HER THROAT
SLIT! I ENCOUNTERED HER
AND HER LORD GENOCIDE
YEARS AGO IN MY ENDLESS
GRAVEYARD, BUT I'VE NEVER
DIVINED THE PURPOSE
OF THEIR VISIT.

AND NOW
STRANGELY, SHE
APPEARS HERE
IN ASGARD.

IT LOOKS AS IF
THE ASGARDIANS
AND THE FROST
GIANTS AREN'T FARING
WELL, THOUGH LORD
TYR IS COMMANDER,
THEY'RE DISORGANIZED,
UNFOCUSED.

BUT THIS
BATTLE IS
CRITICAL! IF
WE LOSE THESE
NORTHLANDS,
CITY ASGARD IS
VULNERABLE
TO ATTACK.

THESE DOOM
MAGISTRATES
ARE FAR TOO
FIERCE! UNLIKE ANY
FOES I'VE FACED. THEY
CHANGE SHAPE, THEIR
BLOOD BREEDS
PARASITES!

SURELY THEY
COULD HAVE
LAUNCHED THIS
CAMPAIGN EARLIER.
WHY ATTACK
NOW?

PART OF
GENOCIDE'S
MASTER PLAN,
PERHAPS?

DIE,
SOFT SKIN, IN
THE NAME OF
GENOCIDE AND
CHAOS!

FWAK

BACK OFF,
MONGREL!

LOOK! THE
CHOSEN ONE
APPROACHES!
PERHAPS SHE
CAN TURN
THE TIDE?

BAH!
NO ONE
CAN HELP US.
WE FACE THE
END!

HURRY! THE
MAGISTRATES
ARE PULLING UP
THE DRAW-
BRIDGE!

No!

UGH!

SUR-
Q

IN THE
DISTANCE
I SEE TYR! HE'S
SURROUNDED!

I'LL MASK
MY FACE, SO
THE MAGISTRATES'
BLOOD PARASITES
WON'T ENTER
ME!

FASTER,
WOLF!

THE BATTLE
IS LOST, GIANT.
THEY'VE LIPPED
THE DRAWBRIDGE.
WE'VE LOST OUR
ADVANTAGE.

WHAT A
WRETCHED WAY
TO DIE, IN THE
COMPANY OF
OLD ENEMIES.

THOUGH
WE PUT ASIDE
OUR DIFFERENCES
FOR BATTLE, I MUST
CONFESS, YOUR
ASGARDIAN STENCH
IS APPALLING.

PREPARE
TO MEET YOUR
MAKER, SOFT
SKIN.

YOUR
BATTLE GOES
POORLY,
TYR.

WHAT CAN
YOU EXPECT?
WE'VE ONLY THESE
MISBEGOTTEN
ANIMALS AS
ALLIES.

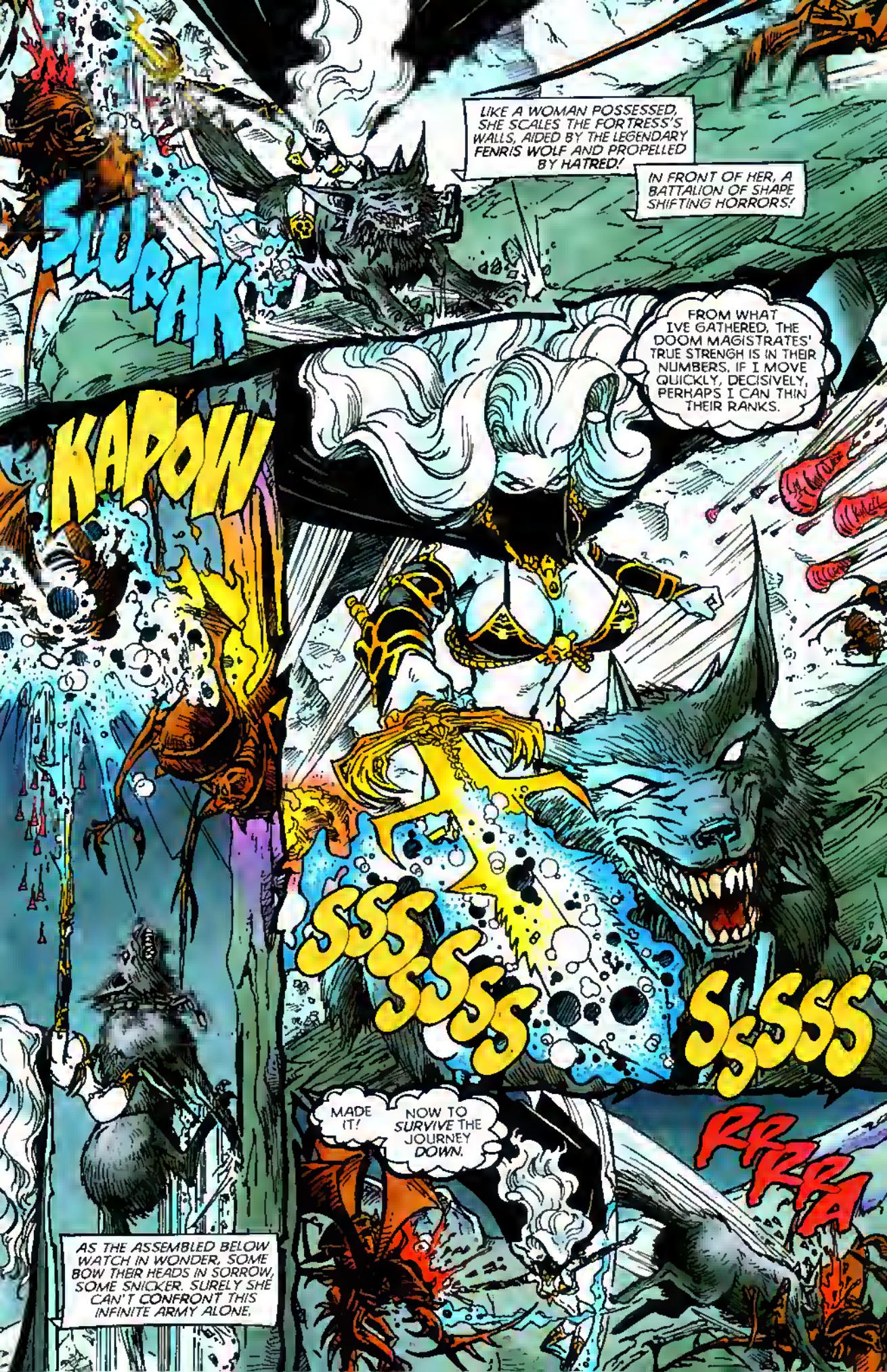
WATCH
YOUR TONGUE,
GODLING!

WHO?
LADY
DEATH?
THE
CHOSEN
ONE!

WE MUST GAIN
ENTRANCE TO
THE MAGISTRATES'
STRONGHOLD, BE
READY, ON
MY SAY.

BAH!
WHAT CAN YOU
DO? A MERE
WOMAN?

YOU
SHALL SEE,
EH?



GENOCIDE
IS A SCAVENGER.
WHAT EXACTLY IS
HE LOOKING FOR?

FA
M

THE GATE!
BLOCKED!

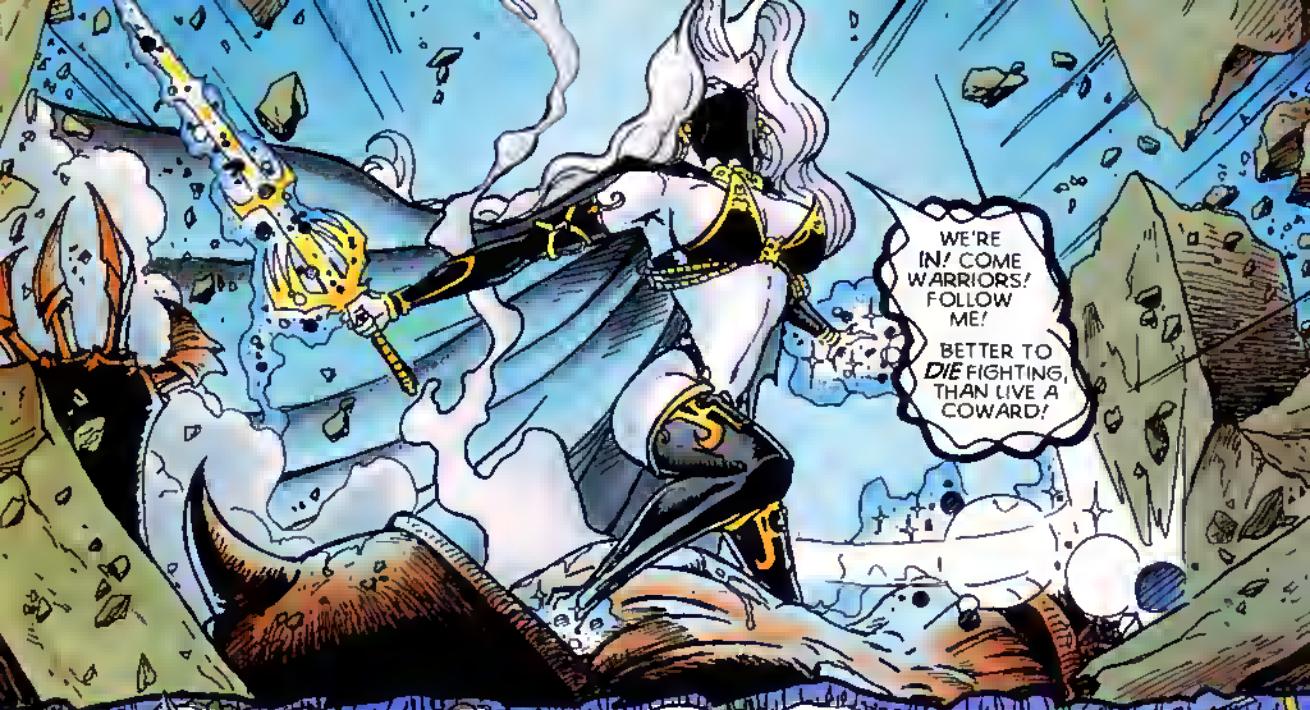
THIS
FORTRESS
LOOKS LIKE IT'S
BEEN HERE FOR YEARS.
MAKES ME WONDER
AGAIN, WHY DID
THEY CHOOSE
TO ATTACK
NOW?

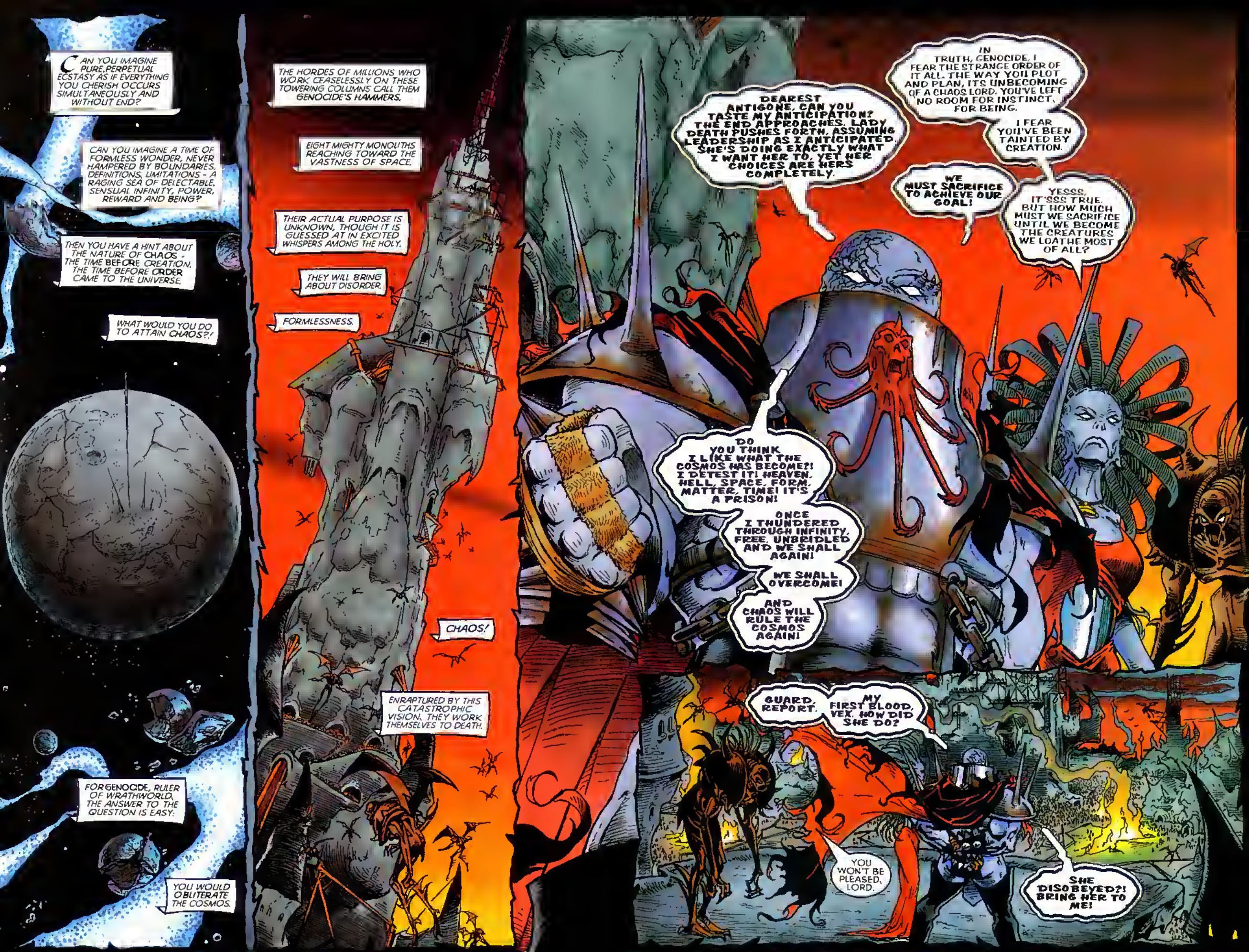
SURROUNDED.

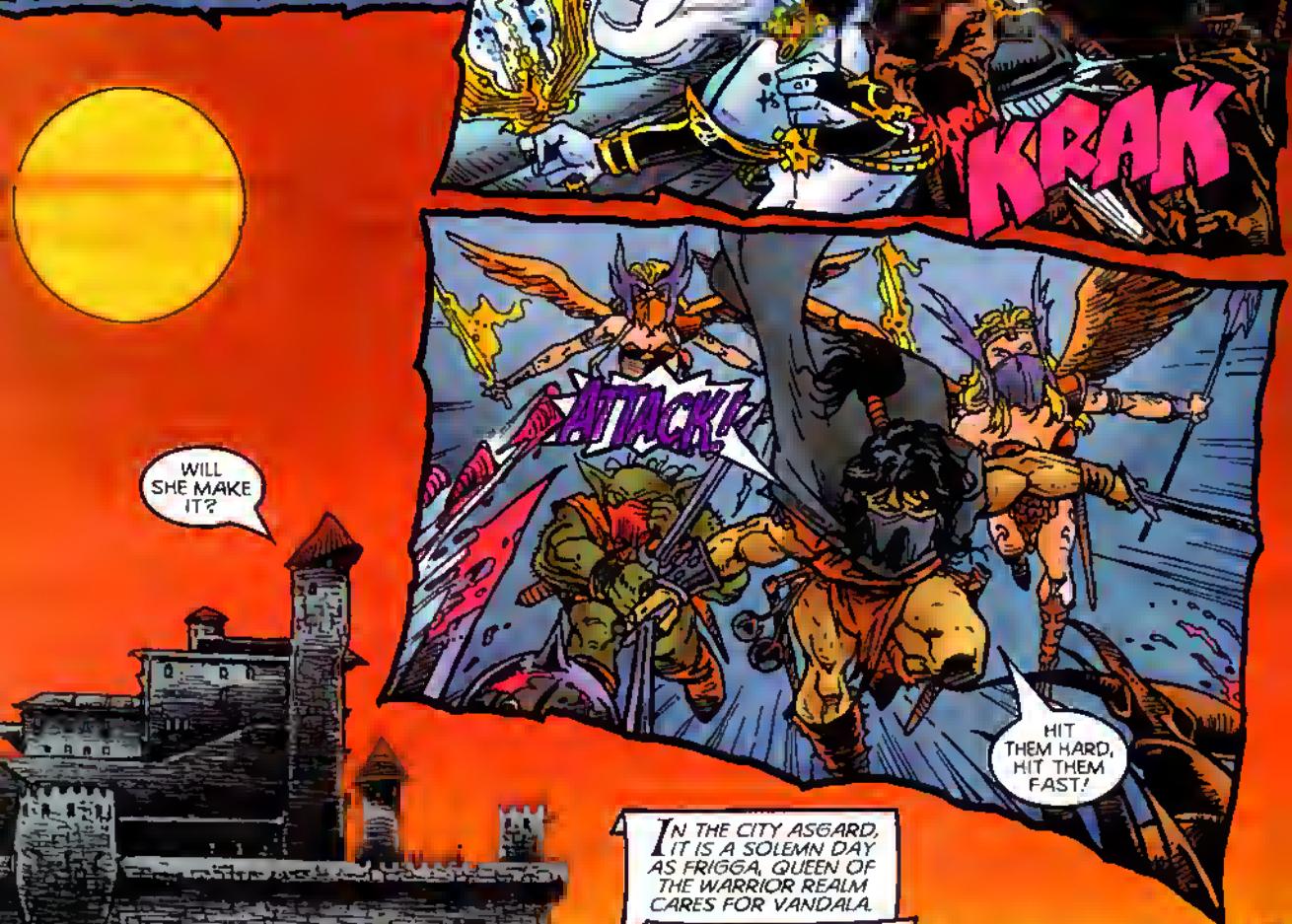
TO HELL
WITH YOU!

ERRGHM!!

SHRAK







*IN THE CITY ASGARD,
IT IS A SOLEMN DAY
AS FRIGGA, QUEEN OF
THE WARRIOR REALM
CARES FOR VANDALA.*

HIT
THEM HARD,
HIT THEM FAST!





HOW
DOESS IT
FEEL TO BE
CUT!

ARRGH!

SHE'S
STRONGER
NOW, MORE
VICIOUS!

WE'VE
GOT TO
HELP
HER!

NO! GRIM
HOLD!

THE
FIGHT IS HERS
AND HERS
ALONE!

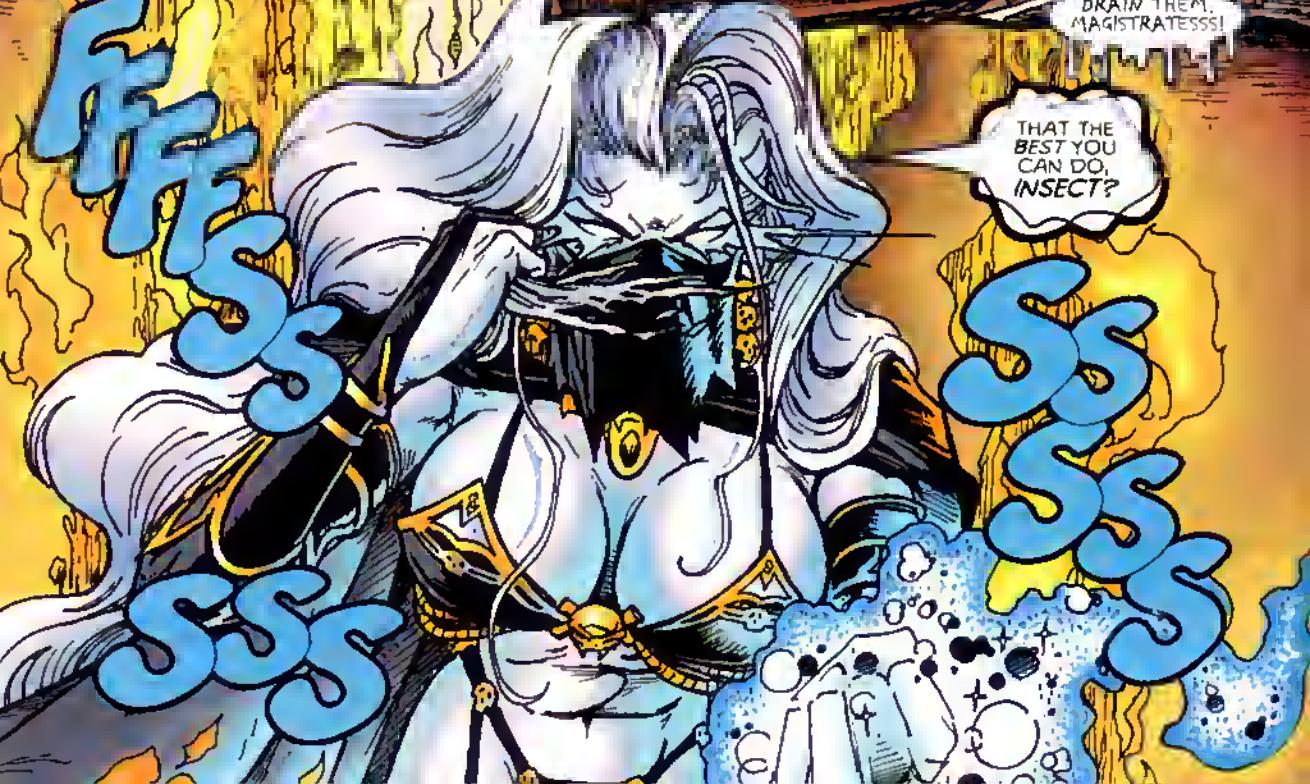
THERE
IS NO CASTE
LOWER IN HORDE
CULTURE! I AM
LOWEST NOW! I
CAN EASILY HEAL
MYSELF, BUT I'M
NOT ALLOWED
TO!

Ah,
THE PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY FOR
SOME LOOTING, EH?
AND IF MY HEARTSTRUCK
FRIEND GRIMNIR DOESN'T
WANT TO JOIN IN, THEN
THERE'S TAKINGS
FOR ME!

HEE HEE
HEE!

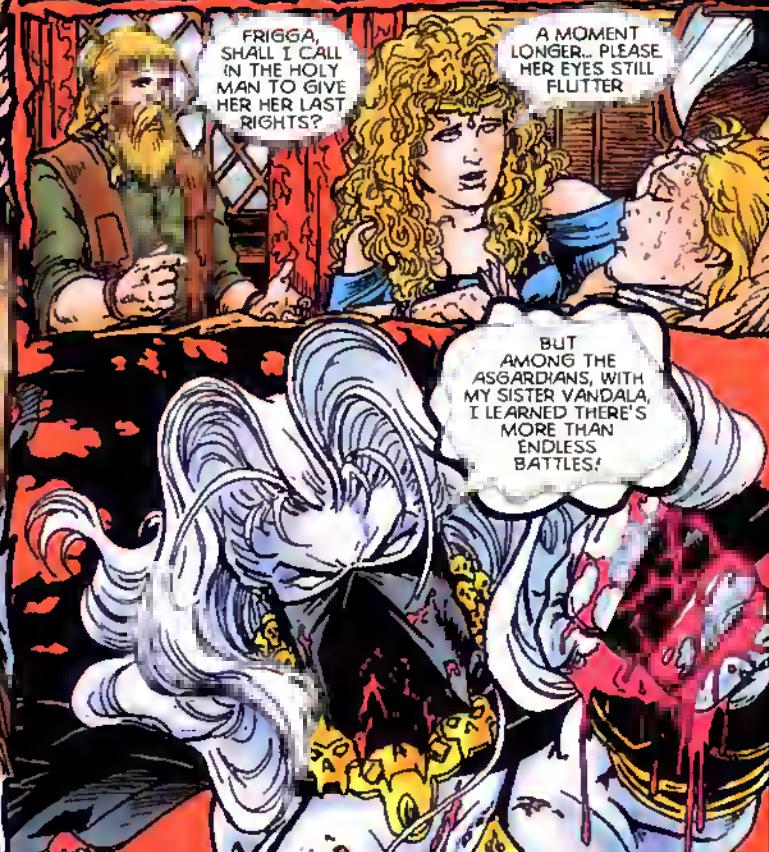
ALL
REMARK ALL
SSSTARE!
THEY
KNOW MY
DEFEAT!

EEAAAAA!

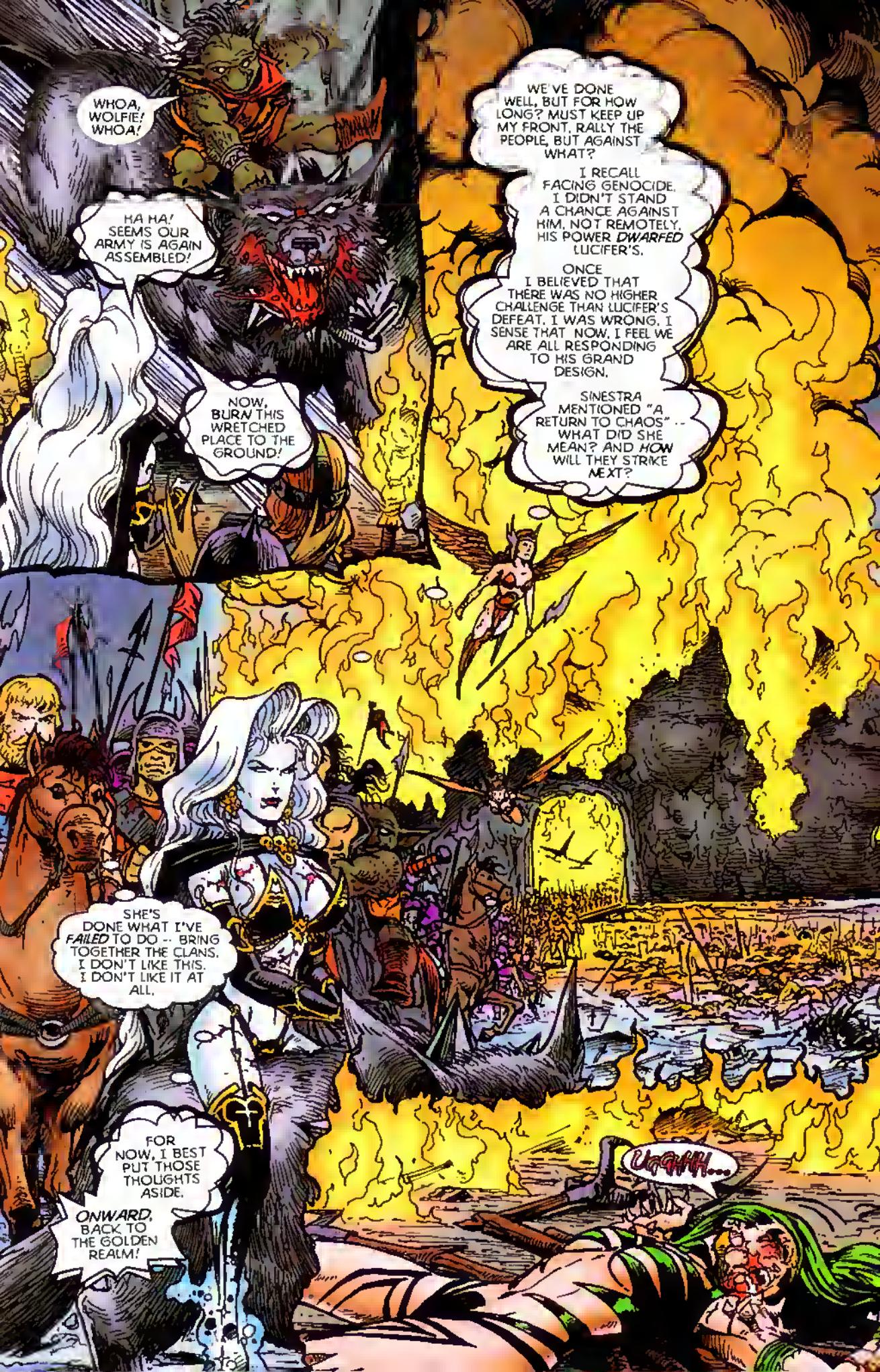


THAT'S RIGHT,
COWARDS, SEEK THE
SHADOWS!

GGRR RR







THEY RALLY AROUND LADY DEATH. PERFECT. ABSOLUTELY PERFECT!

IT'S CRUCIAL THAT THEY ARE TOGETHER WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE.

POOR SINESTRA, LITTLE PAWN. VANQUISHED AGAIN. HER FIRST BLOOD SCORPIA WILL BE ANGERED INDEED.

LORD I'VE BROUGHT VEX AS YOU ORDERED.

VEX, YOU CROSSED ME! I COMMANDED YOU TO KILL VANDALA. YOU DIDN'T. YOU LET SINESTRA DO THE DEED.

HOW DID YOU KNOW FATHER?

I KNOW ALL.

YOU DISAPPOINT ME, VEX.

YOU ARE NO LONGER MY FIRST BLOOD. I SENTENCE YOU TO ETERNITY IN THE UNDERHIVES!

NO! NOT THAT! IT ISN'T FAIR! NO!

WHAT IS?

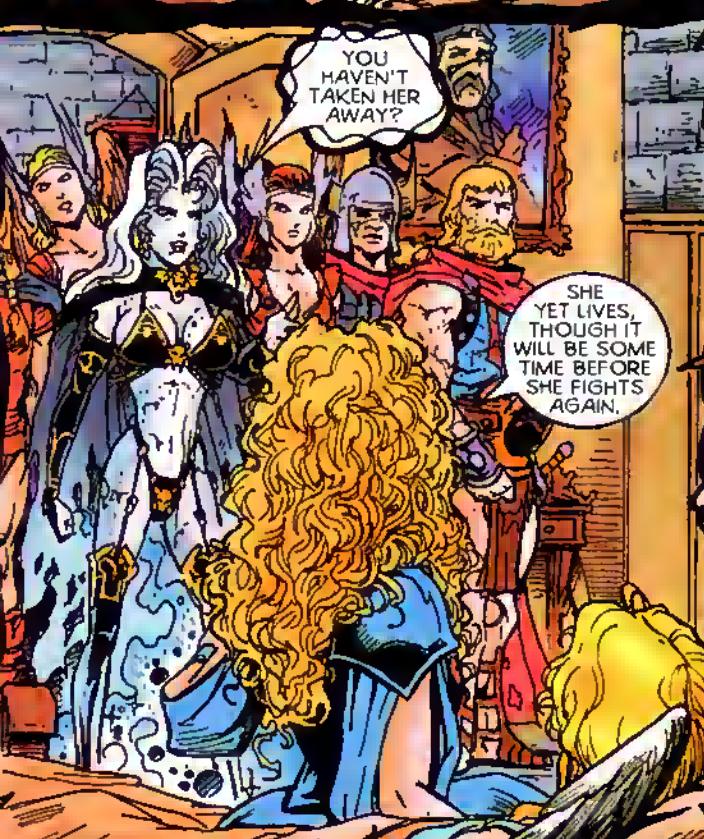
HER BEHAVIOR MUST BE ALLOWED FOR. SHE DOESN'T NEED TO BE A KILLER!

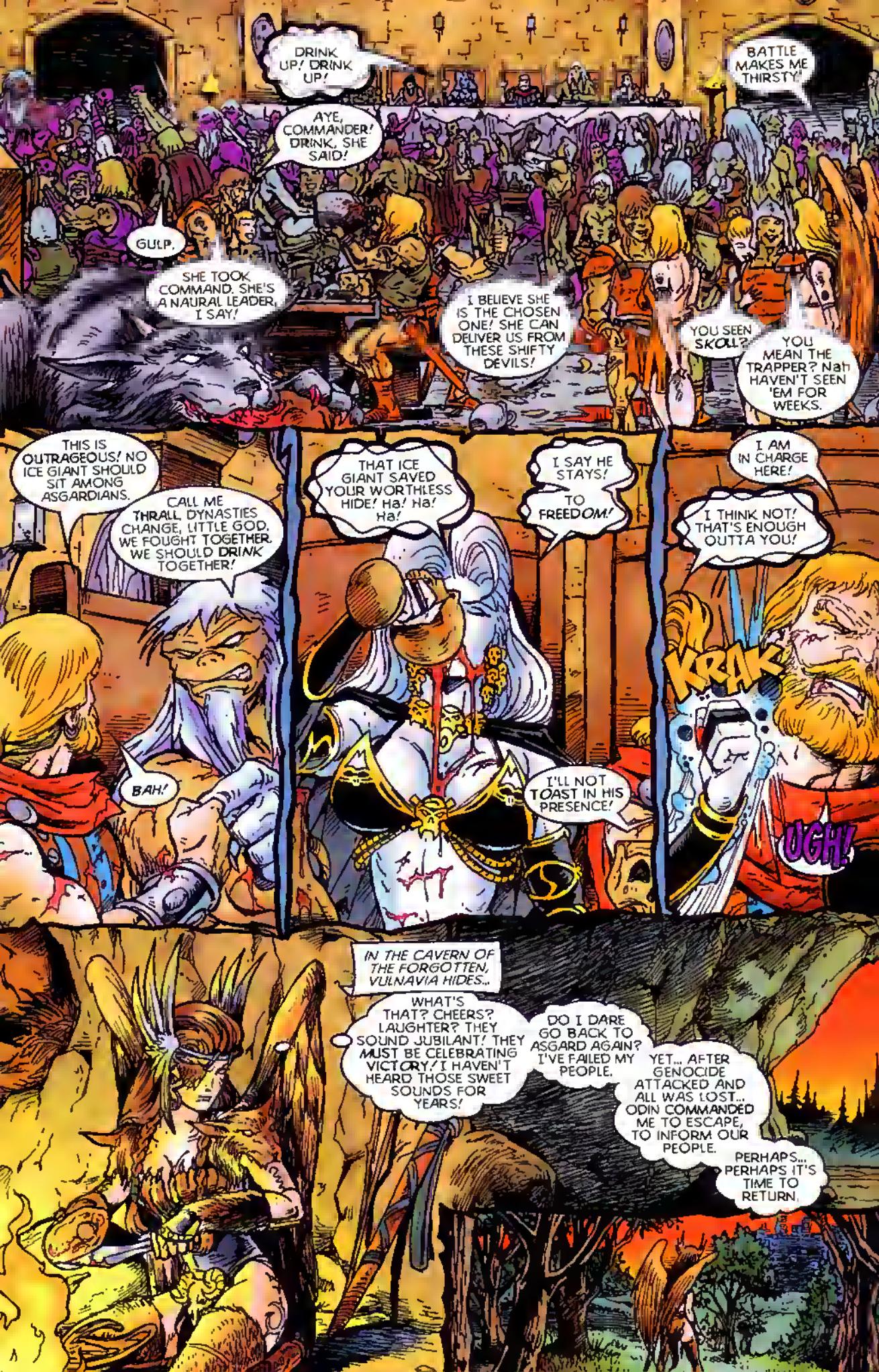
I SAY SHE DOES. ANTIGONE. DON'T CROSS ME.

ME CROSS YOU? YOU ARE CROSSING THE WAYS OF CHAOS. SIMPLY BY YOUR ACTIONS. WHY MUST SHE CONFORM? BECOME ORDERED? IT'S ABSURD!

YOU LACK VISION, MATE.

WE MUST ALL PAY THE PRICE FOR CHAOS!





Mmmmm,
YOU'LL DO.

THE
CHARGE
OF BATTLE
MAKES MY
BLOOD
RACE!

?



COME.

LET'S DO
A LITTLE
CELEBRATING
OF OUR OWN.
eh?!



DISROBE.

NOW.

YOU
PLEASE
ME.

WRATHWORLD.

THEY WERE
WIPE OUT, BURNED!
SINESTRA SUFFERED
GRAVELY AT THE HANDS
OF THE ASGARDIANS.
SHE WAS BEATEN,
TORTURED --
BUT LEFT TO
LIVE.

YOU KNOW
WHAT I MUST DO.
IT IS OUR WAY.
SINESTRA MUST
SUFFER AS FODDER
IN THE WAR PITS.

I HAVE
GRIM NEWS.
IT'S ABOUT
YOUR FIRST
BLOOD,
SINESTRA.
AND HER
BATTALION.

YOU
CALLED,
DARK
LORD?

HOW
MAY I
SERVE
YOU?

BUT I
MUST TELL
YOU, ONE
AMONG THE
ASGARDIANS
WAS CHIEFLY
RESPONSIBLE.

SHE'S
THEIR NEW
LEADER
APPARENT.
LADY
DEATH!

WHO
WHO WHO.

HEE HEE
HEE.

HA HA
HA.

THIS
CANNOT GO
UNPUNISHED,
LORD!

YOU'VE
WAITED LONG
FOR A FRONTAL
ASSAULT ON
ASGARD,
SCORPIA.

THAT
TIME HAS
COME.

SUMMON THE
**NECRO-ELITE
GUARD!**

TOMORROW
ASGARD DIES
A THOUSAND
DEATHS!

YESSSSSSS,
AND WITH IT,
THIS

**LADY
DEATH!**

NEXT IN GODAYS!

**YOUR TIME IS
GONNA COME!**

Lady Death®

"The Crucible" part 2 (of 6): "No Quarter"



— Glaring Omissions Dept. —

Due to an oversight, the fully awesome JOÉ JUSKO was not credited for painting the glorious cover to the *Lady Death and the Women of Chaos! Gallery #1*. We apologize, dude, and won't let it happen again.

The Story So Far

Lady Death comes to Asgard with Vandala. She learns that Odin and most of the royal family of the golden realm were killed by a mysterious being called GENOCIDE and his hideous, shape-changing DOOM MAGISTRATES. Since then they've invaded Asgard scavenging for something. On Wrathworld, Genocide is pleased as an army of workers is building a giant, bio-morphic contraption for some unknown, deadly purpose. How is all this linked to Asgard and the ravishing diva of death?

Lady Death learns that her mother, Marion, was originally married to the Viking, Agnar, and she had two daughters: Vulnavia and Vandala. No sooner does she learn this, than tragedy befalls them all. Sinistra, one of Genocide's elite assassins, slices Vandala's throat! Lady Death declares war!

Creator/Writer

Brian Pulido

Illustrator

Steven Hughes

Colorists

Jason Jensen/Jack Gray

Letterer

Comicraft's Dave Lamphear

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Last Writs

Last Writs: 7645 E. Evans Rd. Suite 6 • Scottsdale, AZ 85260

DEAR BRIAN:

I wanted to respond to Lyle Artis' letter from *Lady Death: The Crucible* #1 regarding the lack of *Chaos!* coverage in the fan press.

Dear Lyle:

You claim to read the comic trades and even list COMBO in your call to arms, but I'm sure you do not mean to mention us in the same breath as some of the others. If you truly read COMBO, you'd know that we not only pay attention to *Chaos!* Comics, but respect them as well.

First of all, COMBO has never once made fun of Lady Death or her breasts! As a matter of fact, COMBO has even defended her as a strong female lead character as opposed to a "bad girl." And second, there is coverage of *Chaos!* in every issue of COMBO. Whether it's our detailed storyline descriptions in "What's New in Comics" or the exclusive interviews and feature articles. COMBO #23, out the middle of October, features the first interview with Steven Hughes in any fan press publication. And while *Chaos!* does reign on our cover at Halloween time (this is not the only time *Chaos!* characters have been, or will be featured), COMBO #18 celebrated the release of *Purgatori* with an amazing Jim Balent/*Purgatori* flip cover and interview. And COMBO #25, our two year anniversary issue, will feature an Evil Ernie flip cover celebrating Ernie's five year anniversary. And I don't even want to mention all the exclusive contests we've done as well. As *Chaos!* continues to publish high quality comics featuring dynamic storylines, COMBO will be leading the fan press charge.

So if every fan of Lady Death and *Chaos!* Comics wants to write a letter to COMBO requesting we give more coverage, that's fine. But remember, when the coverage is there, as it is in COMBO, it's a real good idea to buy the magazines so the coverage will continue. After all, we are the fan press, and the fans are what drives the comic industry.

Sincerely,

Ian M. Feller
COMBO, Managing Editor

Chaos! Comics would like to give much respect to Ian Feller and COMBO for truly they are "sworn to the black." Please support them every month. They genuinely rule!

TO ALL AT CHAOS!

Greetings once again from Area 51. Just a few questions and comments about *Lady Death: The Crucible* #1/2. I must begin with a word of warning: the story begins with Lady Death lying in bed half asleep. At the end of the Crucible, she'd better not wake up and realize, "It was all just a dream." Don't even consider it.

The scaboids are amusing little critters. At first, I thought they reminded me of the Jawas from *Star Wars*. But later, I realized they must be relatives of Imp from the *Demonica & Diabolica* story. Like Imp, the scaboids have a few magical powers, a tendency to get into trouble, and an attraction toward dangerous women.

This Vulnavia person: I recognize the name—she was the silent partner of Dr. Phibes. Is she Vandala's boss or something? And are we to make something of the fact that Vulnavia has lost one eye, and Sinestra has just had one side of her face bashed in? Has Sinestra also lost an eye?

Lord Genocide is not like Lady Death's other opponents. While everyone else wastes time with a lot of chest thumping and posturing, Lord Genocide is casual, almost dismissive, of Lady Death. As Sherlock Holmes once said, "I disregard the blusterer, but this man says rather less than he means." Lady Death is not accustomed to being taken so lightly. But don't worry—she'll make a believer out of him.

E.J. Wood

To answer your questions, Ed, don't worry. *The Crucible* isn't a dream—it's a nightmare!!! Yes, Vulnavia was named after Dr. Phibes' silent partner. FYI, Lady Death's father, Matthias, was named after the leader of the Nightmen in *Omega Man*. I love old tricks. And finally, there's no connection between Sinestra and Vulnavia.

CHAOS!

I have received my copy of *The Crucible* #1/2. I'm rather intrigued by it in several spots. First of all, this was the first meeting of Lady Death and Genocide. Now, I kind of see Genocide as one of the Pirates of Telemach, only much more powerful and ambitious. So he's Lucifer's older brother, eh? That is in itself a dangerous fact. Lady Death barely defeated Lucifer as it was, solo go up against his older and more powerful brother, this could be very bad. I'm wondering why you reprinted *The Reckoning* #1. Not that I'm collecting *Chaos!* for what the

books are valued at, but this reprint will hurt the value derived from rarity. To say you have *The Reckoning* #1 is a big thing, an object of pride for me and others. Also you're reprinting *Youth Gone Wild*, which I don't really mind because I just have the trade paperback. I urge you, however, to not reprint anything else. The rarity of *Chaos!* comics is one of their best features, and a glut of the market cannot be good in the end.

As a Foulness Shall Ye Know Them,
Dan L. Wells II

P.S. The send-off above is a quote from H.P. Lovecraft. Check him out if you haven't already.

Regarding Genocide's relationship to Lucifer—I wouldn't take it too literally, though there is more there than meets the eye. We reprinted *Lady Death: The Reckoning* #1 because of numerous requests and we only printed to order. We're reprinting *Evil Ernie: Youth Gone Wild* #1-#5 because five years have passed and it's time to turn on a new generation of fiends. So you know, other than trade paperbacks (and a cool box set Christmas 1997), we have no plans to reprint any *Chaos!* comic in 1997.

DEAR FIENDS,

Greetings from one of your newest Fiend Club members. I received my starter kit a few days ago and I was very pleased with the material provided. I have even been offered \$25 for my fan club t-shirt. The starter kit even provided a promo card that I have been looking for! (Evil Ernie All Chirocious Set Promo Card #2).

I am looking forward to the new Lady Death series: *The Crucible*. The 1/2 offer in Wizard only whetted my appetite for more, though the 1/2 issue did raise two major questions for me. 1. At the end of the *Odyssey* series, it appears that both Lady Death and Vandala set out to encounter Genocide, so when did the events shown in *The Crucible* #1/2 occur? 2. In her first encounter with Genocide in the Endless Graveyard, Genocide refers to Lucifer as his little brother; is this a brother in the normal sense of the word or in another sense?

In conclusion, I would like to tell the crew at *Chaos!* Comics that I have enjoyed every issue that I have read including *Detonator*, *Lynch Mob*, and *The One Shot*. *Briarke of Eternity* like artwork was fantastic when the comic was done by *Chaos!* and I would also like to plug the store where I purchase

my comics: ATOMIC COMICS, 5615 S. WESTERN, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73109. The store is fantastic and the people who own and operate the store are, in my opinion, the best in the business.

Thanks,
Robert Le Hall



Rafael Ayala

If you check the first caption on the first page of *Lady Death: The Crucible* #1, you will see that the events that transpired occurred five years ago in the Endless Graveyard. As for your second question, refer to the answer above.

DEAR CHAOS!,

Over the past two years or so I have become a big fan of many independent companies. Because of my dislike of what has become of DC, Marvel, and even Image comics, I wanted to write you this letter and tell you that I really enjoy reading your comics. Two years ago, I would spend 90% of my money on DC, Marvel, and Image comics. But for some ungodly reason, they have given us what I have called the "Cross-over Syndrome." Now don't get me wrong—I like a little crossover now and then—it's kind of interesting. But what these guys are doing is insulting as a comic book fan! Just how much do they think a person is willing to spend just to keep up with a storyline that makes no @#%\$ sense to begin with??

That brings me to you. I like the flow of your stories and I enjoy the art tremendously!!! And most of all, I like the characters. I like what you are doing and I will continue to write now and then and tell you what I think of your stuff (if you don't mind).

Note: My friends, you just don't get any better than what you're doing to Lady Death these days. I like it, I like it, I like it, I like it, I like it!!!!!!

Lorenzo Jones

No, Lorenzo, I don't mind.

DEAR CHAOS!,

I just wanted to say that I just finished reading *Lady Death: The Crucible*. The 1/2 offer

in Wizard only whetted my appetite for more, though the 1/2 issue did raise two major questions for me. 1. At the end of the *Odyssey* series, it appears that both Lady Death and Vandala set out to encounter Genocide, so when did the events shown in *The Crucible* #1/2 occur? 2. In her first encounter with Genocide in the Endless Graveyard, Genocide refers to Lucifer as his little brother; is this a brother in the normal sense of the word or in another sense?

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A fiend forever,
Billy Thompson

Cremator will appear in about a year from now. Asteroth will return when you least expect him. (Whoops, I'm giving' stuff away!)



The Chaos! crew in Phoenix, Arizona with BABY DEATH!



Hengky Tanoyo

Next Issue:

CRUCIAL ISSUE ALERT! Lady Death's most harrowing, bloodthirsty adventure yet continues! With Asgard under siege by Scorpia and the Necro-Elite Doom Magistrates, things look grim for Lady Death's newly-bound family, so she journeys to Valhalla, hall of the fallen heroes, for help.

While resuscitating an undead army of Viking warriors, Lady Death encounters a strangely, BEDLAM, guardian of the great Nexus. What does his presence suggest? Could Genocide be closer than ever in his quest for power to use against all creation? Answer: YES!

Finally, witness the SHOCK ENDING as Lady Death's sword Darkness is obliterated—and so is Lady Death!?

Chaos!



Lady Death: The Crucible #2 (of 6) • January 1997 • \$2.95 U.S. • \$3.95 Canada.